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Seventeenth special session
First part
Geneva, 2 December 1991
Item 1(a) of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE BOARD AND ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

At its 788th plenary meeting, on 22 March 1991, the Board approved the provisional agenda for its seventeenth special session (TD/B/L.917). The provisional agenda is set out below.

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session;

   (b) Adoption of the report on credentials

2. Organization of the work of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

3. Substantive preparations for the eighth session of the Conference

4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;

   (b) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees;

   (c) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (d) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report of the Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introductory note

By resolution 45/261, of 3 May 1991, the General Assembly decided to convene the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992, to be preceded by a two-day meeting of senior officials at Cartagena de Indias on 6 and 7 February 1992.

The provisional agenda for the Conference has been circulated in TD/B/INF.181.

The seventeenth special session of the Board is convened in order to advance the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference.

Item 1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

Item 1(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the seventeenth special session was approved by the Board at its 788th plenary meeting on 22 March 1991.

In accordance with past practice, the Board authorized the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with the President, to adjust and complete the provisional agenda in the light of developments. This arrangement was on the understanding that any amendments or additions would be subject to consultations with the representatives of regional groups, China and interested delegations within the framework of the consultative machinery established by Board decision 143 (XVI) and Board resolution 231 (XXII).

Any amendments and supplementary information will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation

TD/B/1294	Annotated provisional agenda
TD/B/1294/Add.1	Addendum

Item 1(a) (continued) Organization of work

As requested by the Board at its 788th plenary meeting, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will consult delegations on the organization of work of the special session and will circulate his suggestions in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation

TD/B/1294/Add.2 Organization of work

Item 1(b) Adoption of the report on credentials

Rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure states that "The Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board."

Documentation

in-session documentation

Item 2 ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

In its resolution 45/205, of 21 December 1990, entitled "Eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development", the General Assembly requested the Trade and Development Board to undertake the necessary intergovernmental preparations for the Conference and to agree on organizational arrangements for the Conference that will encourage Ministerial participation, particularly at the conclusion of its work.

In approving the substantive item of the provisional agenda for the Conference (780th plenary meeting on 12 October 1990), the Trade and Development Board noted the related understanding reached in informal consultations that, in addition to the Plenary, there would be only one sessional committee and that there would not be more than three simultaneous official meetings.

In the light of the above, and to assist the Board, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will circulate some preliminary suggestions for the organization of the work of the Conference. The Board may wish to consider these preliminary suggestions with a view to making recommendations to the pre-Conference meeting of Senior Officials concerning the organization of the work of the Conference.

Item 3 SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

The substantive item on the provisional agenda for the Conference reads:

"8. Strengthening national and international action and multilateral co-operation for a healthy, secure and equitable world economy.

Evaluation of challenges and potentials presented by long-term structural changes for sustainable development and expansion of international trade in an interdependent world economy. Promoting economic growth, technological capabilities and accelerated development in the developing countries: adoption of sound national and international policies and measures, good management and structural reforms in both developed and developing countries to achieve the effective and efficient allocation, use and mobilization of human and economic resources and a more favourable international economic environment. Towards this end, issues in the following interrelated areas would be addressed: Resources for Development; International Trade; Technology; Services; Commodities."

At the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 25 July 1991, it was noted that agreement had already been reached that the intergovernmental preparatory process would draw up a negotiated text, possibly including a number of square-bracketed passages, on which the Conference itself would focus.

At its 797th plenary meeting, on 4 October 1991, the Trade and Development Board agreed on the desirability of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD's initiating, in the period between the first part of the thirty-eighth session of the Board and the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (Tehran, 16-23 November 1991), an informal, non-binding, series of consultations which would exchange views focusing on expectations with regard to UNCTAD VIII, and also on institutional issues.

The report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the Conference will be available to the Board.

Position papers and other documents of regional groups or of individual delegations will be circulated to the Board.

Drawing on the above, and on any other relevant documentation, the Board may wish to make provision for the preparatory exercise to begin within the framework of the session.

Any supplementary information under this item will be included in an addendum to the present document.

Item 3 (continued) To assist the Board, the texts of relevant resolutions and decisions of the Trade and Development Board and of the General Assembly will be made available in a separate document.

Documentation

TD/354 and Corr.1	Accelerating the development process: challenges for national and international policies in the 1990s Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to UNCTAD VIII
TD/355	Trade, development and the new international challenges: towards a programme of action for strengthened multilateral co-operation and sustainable development - elements of a contribution to UNCTAD VIII (issued on the responsibility of the Secretary-General of OECD and circulated at the request of the States members of Group B)
TD/....	Outcome of the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 (Tehran, 16-23 November 1991)
TD/357	Basic considerations on issues of the agenda of UNCTAD VIII Position paper submitted by China
TD/B/INF.181	Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Conference

Item 4 INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

Item 4 (a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections

The Board will be informed of any changes in the membership of UNCTAD - which at time of writing stands at 171.

Item 4(b) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), the President will inform the Board of any communications received from members of the Conference, indicating their intention to become members of the Board.

Likewise, in accordance with Conference resolution 80 (III), the President will inform the Board of any communications received from States members wishing to become members of one or more of the main Committees.

The membership of the Conference, the Board and the main Committees, as at 4 October 1991, is reflected in document TD/B/INF.178/Rev.2.

Item 4 (c) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

Any applications received will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

An up-dated list of IGOs in status with UNCTAD is contained in TD/B/INF.106/Rev.5.

Item 4 (d) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

If required, an annotation to this item will be contained in an addendum to the present document.

An up-dated list of NGOs in status with UNCTAD is contained in TD/B/INF.107/Rev.5.

Item 4 (e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and budgetary implications of any proposals before it.

Item 5 OTHER BUSINESS

Any matters to be taken up under this item will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Item 6 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD

In accordance with Board decision 259 (XXV), two versions of the report of the Board are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions of the Board and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the Board's proceedings, which constitutes the Official Records of the Board's session.